

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO. 298

TOPIC Military Information from Altengrabow

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EVALUATION 25X1A PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

25X1A DATE OF CONTENT 25X1A

DATE OBTAINED 28 August 1951 PREPARED 28 August 1951

REFERENCES 25X1A

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1A

REMARKS

25X1X SOURCE 25X1A

1. 25X1A
at the Altengrabow (M 53/2 00) troop training grounds that components of five divisions were staying in the training area. Source estimated that there were at least 50,000 troops. (1)
2. An artillery battalion from Rathenow returned to its home station by rail, and a new battalion arrived from Rathenow. (2) 25X1C
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3. Another artillery unit left for an undetermined destination on 24 July. 25X1A

[Redacted]

4. The training program prior to the end of July was exclusively individual gun and mortar drill during the day, whereas the training in early August switched to practice at battery and battalion level and was held almost exclusively at night. Source frequently noticed that troops prepared and occupied gun positions at night but did not hold firing practice.
5. Local residents stated that a tank unit arrived at the troop training grounds in the middle of July and engaged exclusively in night training thereafter. (4)
6. During the second half of July, AA firing practice at a towed-sleeve target was observed three times. The number of 76-mm AA guns was disproportionately high in comparison with the other types of artillery pieces observed such as 122-mm and 152-mm guns and 160-mm mortars.

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7. All roads approaching the troop training grounds were blocked to civilian traffic on 1 August. A convoy of about 50 sedans was seen driving from the autobahn to Camp Altengrabow. It was said to belong to a general and his staff. When the convoy arrived at Altengrabow, two three-engine aircraft circled over the area and subsequently landed at the airfield. Except for mess and kitchen attendants, all German personnel were barred from entering the military reservation on 1 August. Upon the arrival of the general, all troops from Camp Altengrabow moved to the training area with full equipment. Infantry gun fire and the noise of aircraft engines were heard after nightfall. No searchlights were noticed. The troops returned to their quarters on 2 August. Source did not observe the departure of the general but believed that he left during the night of 2 August.

8. A soldier of the artillery unit from Bernburg stated that his unit would stay at Altengrabow for a prolonged period of time. This statement was confirmed by the superintendent of a cooperative store who said that the artillery troops from Bernburg would remain at Camp Altengrabow as a camp cadre, whereas the barracks installation in Bernburg would be occupied by new troops. The latter informant returned to Bernburg on 1 August to establish a cooperative store of the new unit there. (5)

9. A Soviet captain stated that the previous policy of sending soldiers on furlough unescorted has been abolished. Now, soldiers going on furlough are shipped to Brest Litovsk under the supervision of an officer and taken over by another officer there. Their return trip is similarly supervised. (6)

10. On 28 July, 5 or 6 officers and several EM deserted from the camp. During the subsequent search, one captain was apprehended at the home of a German family at Magdeburgerforth. A ban on the consumption of alcoholic liquors and discontinuance of term leave was imposed on all troops at Altengrabow on 25 July. (7)

11. There were rumors that all the German civilian employees would be replaced by civilians of the U.S.S.R. An officer stated that the pay would be reduced substantially, but that also the prices in stores would be cut. (8) Colonel Tsishokov (fnu) was identified as the commandant of the troop training grounds, and Colonel Lasov (fnu) as the commandant of the Altengrabow ammunition depot.

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Comments.

(1) Statements by workers that elements of five divisions were at the troop training grounds were probably concluded from the fact that the workers constructed targets for five divisions. However, source's estimate of at least 50,000

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troops there, which he probably made on the basis of information by the target-
constructing crew, is wrong

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- (2) The information confirms the rotation of components of the 6th Arty Div between Altengrabow and Rathenow during the second half of July 1951, which was previously reported by two other sources. [redacted] The units involved moved by rail and road.
- (3) The two units belonged to the 3d (?) Gds AT Arty Brig.
- (4) The tank unit is believed to have been a component of the 1st Mecc Div. [redacted] 1 L JS tanks in the Gross Luebars area

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- (5) The information clarifies the future location of the components of the 3 (?) Gds AT Arty Brig from Bernburg upon completion of the summer training. The quarters in Bernburg have been occupied by an unidentified engineer regiment of the GOFG from the southern section of the Delius Kaserne, Potsdam, since the middle of July 1951. [redacted] The information on the stay of the artillery units concerned at Altengrabow is given credence since it was furnished by two different informants.

- (6) This is the first information on the surveillance of personnel going on, and returning from, furlough.
- (7) A similar prohibition has been observed with troop units at other troop training grounds and military posts since about 1 May 1951.
- (8) The information has not been substantiated [redacted]

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